

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LISBON 00432 171733Z

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 /017 W

-----171737Z 068380 /42

O R 171546Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9841

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS LISBON 0432

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON (CU) FROM AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

FOR CU/WE MR. STRAUSS: CU/ARTS FOR MR. WHEELER

USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: STRADIVARI STRING QUARTET

REF: A) STATE 009258 B) LISBON 0339 C) STATE 292384 D) STATE 309590

1. AS FAR BACK AS DECEMBER 2, 1976 DEPT. CONFIRMED STRADIVARI CONCERTS
IN

PORTUGAL FOR FEB. 15-16.

2. EMBASSY AT THAT TIME FIRMED UP ALL ARRANGEMENTS, ENTERED IN
CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH PRESTIGIOUS CO-SPONSORS, WHO TOOK
ALL NECESSARY STEPS FOR PROGRAMMING, INCLUDING COSTLY NEWSPAPER
ADVERTISEMENTS AT THEIR EXPENSE WITH RESULT THAT AUDITORIUMS ARE
COMPLETELY SOLD OUT. INTEREST IN STRADIVARI IS SUCH THAT WE HAVE
RECEIVED QUERIES FROM HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS WHO WERE DISMAYED AT BEING
UNABLE OBTAIN TICKETS. FOR OPORTO, CONCERT OPENS 1977 CULTURAL
SEASON.

3. AS STATED REFTEL B, OUR CREDIBILITY WITH TOP-NOTCH
ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION CAN BE IRREPARABLY
DAMAGED IF WE CONFIRM CONCERTS AND ALLOW CO-SPONSORS TO INCLUDE U.S.

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CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS IN THEIR SEASONAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE ONLY
LATER TO RENEGE ON FIRM COMMITMENTS WITH EXPLANATION THAT GROUP
TRAVEL TO PORTUGAL IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR LACK OF CONCERTS ELSEWHERE.

4. WE FAIL TO COMPREHEND RATIONALE FOR NOT SENDING STRADIVARI TO
PORTUGAL "FOR ONLY TWO CONCERTS" SINCE WE PLEDGED OUR WORK ALMOST
TWO MONTHS AGO. WE BELIEVE IT IMPERATIVE THAT STRADIVARI FOLLOW

THROUGH WITH OBLIGATIONS. IF ADDITIONAL CONCERTS ARE THE ONLY ANSWER FOR JUSTIFICATION FOR TRAVEL TO PORTUGAL, EMBASSY IS WILLING -- EVEN ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE -- TO ARRANGE FOR ADDITIONAL CONCERTS LOCALLY. IN EFFECT WE ARE BEING PENALIZED FOR HAVING DONE OUR WORK.

5. REQUEST YOU GIVE THIS MATTER YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION. CU'S PROGRAMMING ASSISTANCE TO THIS EMBASSY FOR PAST TWO YEARS HAS BEEN SO GREAT AND SO REWARDING RE U.S. OBJECTIVES DURING CRISIS PERIOD, IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR US TO THROW AWAY YEARS OF SUCH FRUITFUL WORK.

CARLUCCI

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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